

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

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HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

CAVE CREEK TRAIL 4

RANGER DISTRICT

Cave Creek Ranger Station
40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85262
Phone (480) 595-3300 Fax (480) 595-3346

TRAILHEADS (TH)

Cave Creek TH (Fee required)
Spur Cross TH
Bronco TH

TERMINI INFORMATION

West end: (2440 feet elevation): Spur Cross Trailhead
East end: (3500 feet elevation): Cave Creek Trailhead

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Moderate
Trail difficulty: Easiest
Trail length: 10.4 miles
Season of Use: All year
USGS maps: New River Mesa, Humboldt Mountain
Elevation: 1060 feet

CONNECTING TRAILS

Quien Sabe TR 250
Skunk Tank TR 246
Cottonwood TR 247
Skull Mesa TR 248

TRAIL NARRATIVE

From the Spur Cross Trailhead, the trail climbs into Chalk Canyon and continues to climb approximately 160 feet into the Skunk Basin area. The trail begins to run along Cave Creek and continues its climb past a stone mining cabin on the western edge of the trail near Skunk Tank Trail junction. The trail proceeds past Ashdale Administrative site and onto Cave Creek Trailhead.

ATTRACTIONS

- Cave Creek Trail ties to several other trails, providing opportunities for loop hikes and rides.
- This trail passes through the Arizona Upland Phase of the Sonoran Desert and through riparian areas of sycamore and cottonwood.
- The inviting riparian areas sometimes contain pools in which to cool off in the summer heat.
- These pools contain a variety of fish, including long-fin dace, Gila top minnow, Fathead minnow and green sunfish.
- Drier area vegetation includes saguaro, mesquite, palo verde and acacia.
- Eleventh-century Hohokam Indians farmed along the creek bed.
- Early cattlemen used the trail for moving livestock.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Closed to motor vehicles
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Caution should also be taken when using this trail in the summer heat.
- Cave Creek Horsemen's Association has adopted this trail. Help them control litter: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- Cave Creek is home to the endangered Gila Top Minnow. Protect this species by not introducing non-native species into the watershed.
- Portions of the trail are rough in places and should be traveled with caution.
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, a protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.